

Maryland Historical Trust
State Historic Sites Inventory Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

Survey No. B-4348

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic 322 North Howard Street/Hyde Building

and/or common Coward Shoe

2. Location

street & number 322-324 N. Howard Street ☐ not for publication

city, town Baltimore ☐ vicinity of ☐ congressional district Seventh

state Maryland ☐ county Baltimore

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name 322-24 N. Howard Street Ltd. Partnership

street & number 1829 Reisterstown Road, Suite 450 telephone no.: MD 21208

city, town Baltimore ☐ state and zip code

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, Baltimore City Courthouse SEB1040
liber

street & number 100 N. Calvert Street, Room 610 folio 320

city, town Baltimore ☐ state MD

6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

city, town ☐ state

7. Description

Survey No.B-4348

Condition

☒ excellent
☐ good
☐ fair

☐ deteriorated
☐ ruins
☐ unexposed

Check one

☐ unaltered
☒ altered

Check one

☒ original site
☐ moved date of move _____

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Resource Count: 1

This circa 1920 commercial building faces east on N. Howard Street and abuts two partywall structures. It is three bays wide, four stories high and the facade is built of grey brick laid in geometric, Art Deco patterns accented with white tile and stone details. The street frontage is 30'5" and the depth is 120'.

The first story has been altered, although the circa 1940s glazing invokes the three-bay pattern of the upper stories. The glass curtain wall facade has raised display cases flanking a deeply recessed entryway.

The second and third stories have recessed, large pane windows separated by narrow brick piers. The second story windows are 1/1 sash (with the top half shorter than the bottom) with a transom and flat stone lintel. The third story windows are single pane with transom and flat stone sill. The spandrels are also recessed, with an inlaid rectangular pattern executed in brick with stone corner blocks. The brick piers are laid in geometric patterns that emphasize their vertical rise. Each pier is topped by a green tile diamond at the top of the third story.

A wide stone stringcourse separates the third and fourth stories. This stringcourse is accented by blocks of cut stone that angle up and out over the facade. These three-dimensional blocks are positioned over the diamond-topped piers and suggest something of a capital. The fourth story is also three bays wide. The windows have arched lintels of alternating stone and brick voussoirs. The arched lintels spring from brick piers sitting on stone plinths. Each window is a pair of 1/1 sash with quarter round tops. Simple wood posts divides the window halves.

A peaked parapet wall rises above the fourth story. The brick is laid in paired stretchers forming squares of alternating horizontal and vertical alignments. A centered stone block has "Hyde" inscribed upon it. A finial caps the north edge of the parapet; the south finial is missing.

The north wall has a window in the fourth story. The south wall is blank. Both walls have "Coward Shoes" painted on their surfaces.

The back (west) wall faces the alley (State Street). It is six bays wide and four stories high. The dark brick is laid in stretcher bond. The fenestration is irregularly spaced.

The first story openings are (north to south) a door with transom under a three-brick soldier course, two metal shuttered windows with three-brick soldier courses and stone lintels, a bricked in window/loading dock with three-brick soldier course, a wide loading dock cut in without lintel, and a bricked-in window/loading dock with three-bricked soldier course.

The second story has three evenly spaced windows with metal

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322 North Howard Street
Baltimore MD
Section 7 Description
7.1

The second story has three evenly spaced windows with metal shutters and three-brick soldier courses, a loading dock with metal shutters and three-brick soldier course, a tripartite window with 2/2 sash and two-light transom with no lintel, and a loading door with metal shutters.

The third story has three evenly spaced windows with seamed metal shuttered and no lintel, a longer window with metal shutters and no lintel, a tripartite window of 2/2 sash and no lintel, and a metal shuttered window.

The cornice is of five corbelled brick courses. A fire escape runs down the fifth bays.

The interior is remodelled with wall board finish.

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322 North Howard Street
Baltimore, MD
Section 8 Significance
8.1

block. The decision to build high indicates land values in this neighborhood; further north on Howard Street the buildings tend to be two- or three-stories and further south they are four- or five-stories. This four-story building thus stands on the edge of a transition zone of economic hierarchies running the length of the street. The tall height of the four stories, sharply contrast with the diminutive height of the neighboring three-story shop-house building to the south. Steel technology contributed to the ability to construct buildings with tall and wide expanses that did not need weight bearing outer walls.

The circa 1940s alterations to the first story created a "modern" commercial design aesthetic. In this circa 1930-1940 storefront, the use of traditional materials such as brick, plate glass, and structural steel framing were combined in new ways to create the popular angled glass window wall slanting towards a recessed entrance vestibule. The cut-in, deeply recessed, center-bay entrance permitted additional display areas along the walls; thus in addition to presenting a "modernized" facade at street level, the facade also served as a three-dimensional, floor-to-ceiling display window. The inlaid name on the vestibule floor provided yet another form of sales promotion. This remodelling represents one of the last periods of commercial vitality on the street. Very little facade remodelling occurred after this decade.

8. Significance

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Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates	Builder/Architect	unknown
check: Applicable Criteria: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D		
and/or		
Applicable Exception: <input type="checkbox"/> A <input type="checkbox"/> B <input type="checkbox"/> C <input type="checkbox"/> D <input type="checkbox"/> E <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> G		
Level of Significance: <input type="checkbox"/> national <input type="checkbox"/> state <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> local		

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This building, dating to first quarter of the twentieth century, is an example of an early Art Deco commercial style. The brick work, an unusual grey color, is laid in simple geometric patterns that enliven the surface of the building and accentuate particular architectural details such as the piers and parapet. The style is overlaid, however, onto a fairly traditional form of building--the four-story, three-bay, three-part vertical block.

The Art Deco style is viewed as a commercial style. The unusual design of the commercial building facade reflects the changing nature of the neighborhood away from a utilitarian, commercial/manufacturing district into a commercial district where style mattered. A few Art Deco facades accent Howard Street, but they are scattered. The geometric play of bricks laid in vertical and horizontal patterns can also be seen in the Art Deco building at 200 West Franklin Street. This building is a rare Howard Street example of patronage and advertising, as evidenced in the name "Hyde" worked into the crest of the parapet.

The use of the parapet cornice and distinct upper story invokes the by-then traditional method of organizing the facade of tall buildings into three-part vertical blocks. Architecturally, the facade is divided into three horizontal parts. Architectural historian Richard Longstreth writes that "The composition is analogous to the divisions of a classical column: base, shaft and capital" adding that this form of expression was experimented with during the last half of the nineteenth century and was fully developed by the end of the century.¹ While typically meant to pertain to very tall office buildings, the pattern is nonetheless true here as well.

In height and massing the building stands out among its neighbors. The height of the building is indicative of aesthetics and land values at the time it was built. Standing four stories tall, it coexisted with four- and three-story buildings on the

¹ Longstreth, Buildings of Main Street, p. 93.

9. Major Bibliographical References

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Richard Longstreth, The Buildings of Main Street (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987).

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property _____

Quadrangle name Baltimore East Quad

Quadrangle scale _____

UTM References do NOT complete UTM references

A

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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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E

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G

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H

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Verbal boundary description and justification _____

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	code	county	code
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state	code	county	code
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11. Form Prepared By

name/title Diane Shaworganization CHAP, Room 1037date December 17, 1991street & number 417 E. Fayette Streettelephone 301-386-4866city or town Baltimorestate MD

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
Shaw House
21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 269-2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
DHCP/DHCD
100 COMMUNITY PLACE
CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023
301-514-7600

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN DATA

HISTORIC CONTEXT:

Geographic Organization:
Piedmont

Chronological/Developmental Period:

Industrial/Urban Dominance, 1879-1930
Modern Period, 1930-present, alterations

Historic Period Themes:
Architecture
Economics

Resource Type:
Building

Historic Environment:
Urban

Historic Function and Use:

Commercial

Known Design Source:
None

REVISIONS

Lots 546 also 27 to 29 consid per Apps. C. Sh. 3513
 Lots 42/47, 48, Ass'd. in R.S.C. Per B of A, C. Sh. 5278.
 Lots 12, 13, 14 Con'd Per App. C. Sh. 8880
 Lots 5/6 47 Con'd Per App. C. Sh. 9440
 Lot 26 THRU 37/40. CON'D PER APP. C. Sh. 85-203

ST.

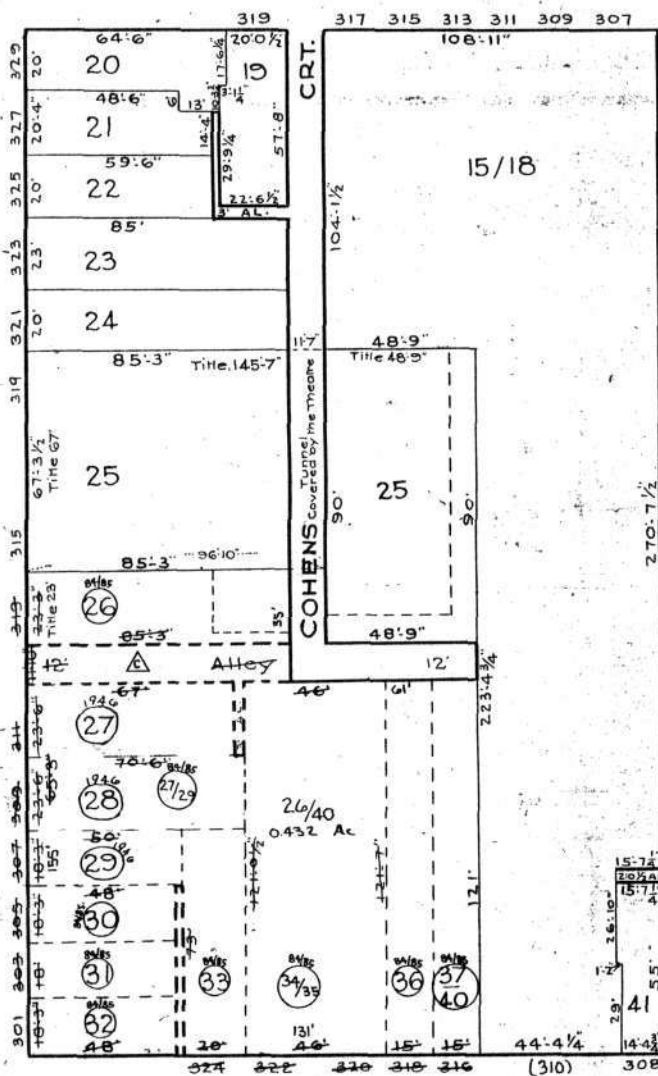
W. MULBERRY

ST.

N. EUTAW

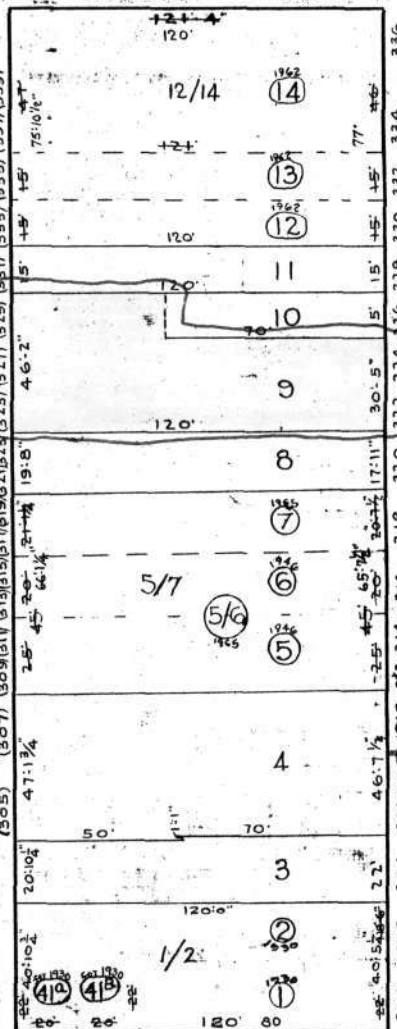
W. SARATOGA

ST.



ST.

STATE



N. HOWARD ST. R/W ASS'D. IN R.S.C. 2-21-51 4/2/57/48

△ DENOTES ALLEY CLOSED IN FIELD

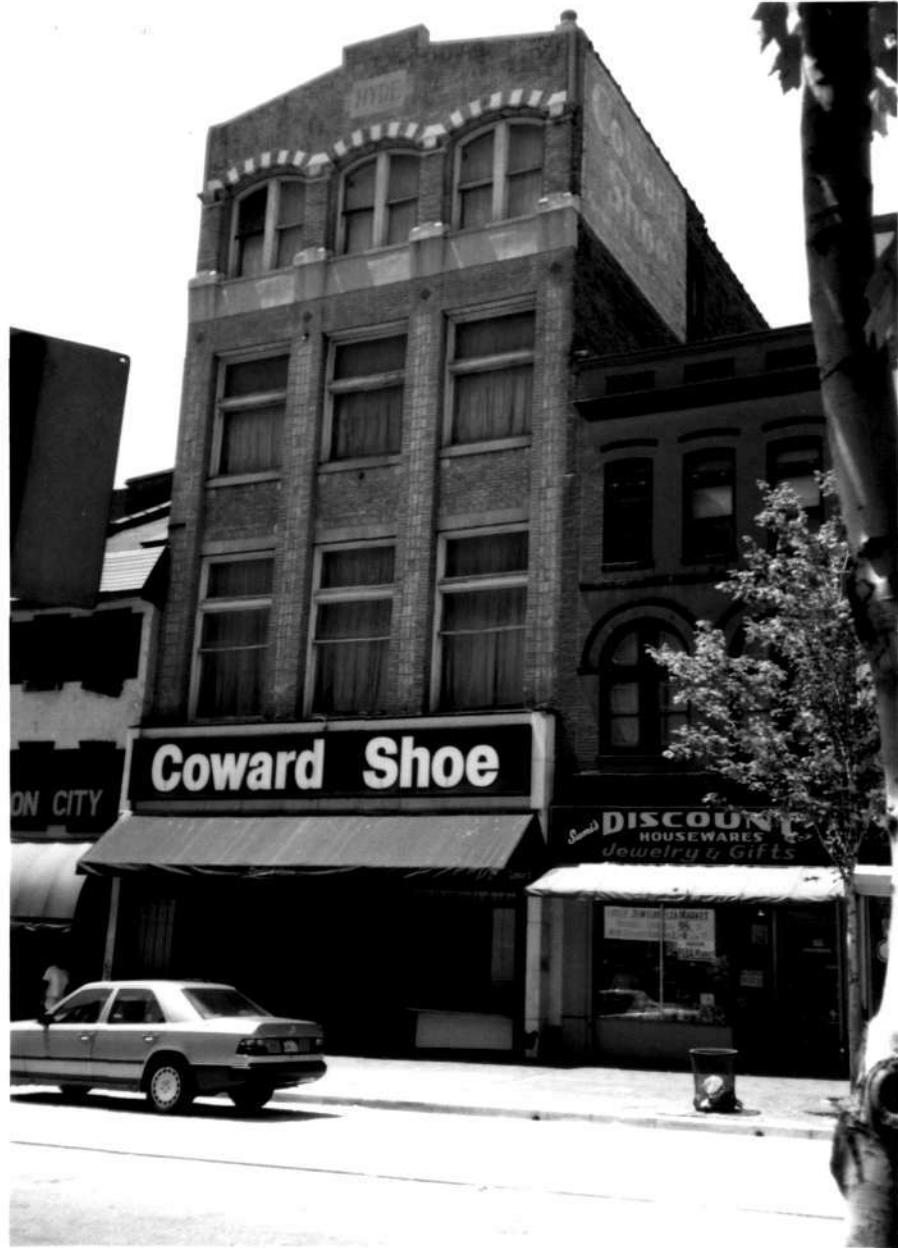
NOTICE

THIS IS A REAL PROPERTY PLAT AS PROVIDED FOR UNDER ARTICLE 76 OF THE CITY CHARTER. IT IS COMPILED FROM TITLE AND OTHER SOURCES AND IS NOT AN AUTHENTIC SURVEY.

CITY OF BALTIMORE
 DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
 BUREAU OF PLANS & SURVEYS
 PROPERTY LOCATION DIVISION

WARD 4 SECTION 2
 BLOCK 577

ACED BY C. H. BAIN
 C. H. BAIN
 ITERED BY J. S. ROKOSKY



B-4348

322-324 N. Howard St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/91

Maryland SHPO

Facade, east elevation

1/2



B-4348

322-324 N. Howard St.

Baltimore MD

Diane Shaw

8/9/

Maryland SH PD

Rear alley (west elevation)

2/2

- 40 40 30 40